

Message Text

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17

ACTION STR-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 TAR-02 TRSE-00

PRS-01 SP-03 FEA-02 OMB-01 SWF-02 DRC-01 /179 W

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O R 220935Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4916

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD GATT EEC IT

SUBJECT: GATT ARTICLE XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS

FOR STR AND AGRICULTURE

REF: A. ROME 6935 B. LAASE/LANDE MAY 21 TELECON

1. SUMMARY. MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) REP CALAMIA (DIRECTOR, EC-GATT AFFAIRS) TELEPHONED EMBOFF AFTER CLOSE OF BUSINESS

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MAY 21 TO REQUEST USG "FLEXIBILITY" ON TWO ITEMS -- TOBACCO AND

KRAFT PAPER -- IN ORDER CONCLUDE XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS ASAP. EMBOFF RESPONDED THAT, BASED ON LATEST INFO FROM WASHINGTON AND BRUSSELS, USG HAS NO RPT NO FLEXIBILITY; EC COMMISSION PROPOSAL BASED ON US REQUESTS WHICH REPRESENTED MINIMUM USG COULD ACCEPT. END SUMMARY.

2. ON TOBACCO, CALAMIA SAID ONLY REMAINING DIFFERENCE IS BETWEEN 45 (US REQUEST) AND 50 (GOI POSITION) AS MAXIMUM DUTY. HE HOPED THIS SMALL DIFFERENCE WOULD NOT PREVENT A XXIV:6 SETTLEMENT.

3. ON KRAFT PAPER, CALAMIA INDICATED US REQUEST MIGHT PROVIDE BASIS FOR SETTLEMENT IF US WILLING ACCEPT CALENDAR FOR STAGING REDUCTIONS WHICH WAS SOMEWHAT DELAYED FROM CALENDAR APPLIED TO EFTA COUNTRIES. CALAMIA STATED, IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFFS QUESTION, THIS HIS SUGGESTION FOR A TARIFF QUOTA (PARA 4, REF A) HAD NOT RPT NOT YET BEEN ACCEPTED BY ALL NINE EC MEMBERS AND THAT EFTA COUNTRIES ALSO OBJECTED TO THIS APPROACH.

4. CALAMIA ALSO REFERRED TO (UNSPECIFIED) PROBLEMS ON DIESEL ENGINES, BUT INDICATED THESE COULD PROBABLY BE OVERCOME BASED ON DIRECTION OF DISCUSSIONS IN BRUSSELS.

5. AT CONCLUSION OF CONVERSATION, CALAMIA (ALMOST TEARFUL AT THIS POINT AND SHOWING OBVIOUS SIGNS OF STRAIN) BEGGED FOR SOME USG SHOW OF FLEXIBILITY WHEN DISCUSSIONS REOPEN MAY 22 IN BRUSSELS IN ORDER CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS AT THAT TIME. HE ASSURED EMBOFF (ON PERSONAL BASIS) THAT US "FLEXIBILITY" ON TOBACCO AND KRAFT PAPER WOULD NOT RPT NOT RESULT IN REQUESTS FROM OTHER EC MEMBERS FOR MODIFICATIONS OF OTHER ITEMS./

6. COMMENT. NOW THAT BELGIANS HAVE APPARENTLY BACKED OFF AND CAN ACCEPT COMMISSION PROPOSAL, GOI REALIZES IT IS ISOLATED AND MUST ACCEPT SOLE RESPONSIBILITY AMONG EC IF XXIV-6 NEGOTIATIONS NOW FAIL. THERE IS TREMENDOUS PRESSURE ON CALAMIA, WHO HAS HAD ENTIRE XXIV:6 PROBLEM DUMPED IN HIS LAP WITH MINIMUM GUIDANCE FROM HIS SUPERIORS, OTHER MINISTRIES, AND PRIMIN'S OFFICE. THIS IS HIS FIRST EXPOSURE TO SUCH PRESSURES AND EMBASSY NOT CERTAIN HOW HE MAY REACT. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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